## Message Text

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**ORIGIN MMS-03** 

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 H-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DOD/LA - CAPT. KNEALE (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652 N/A TAGS:OGEN, APER, DR, MILI

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR DATA REF: SANTO DOMINGO 280 AND PRECEDING

1. DOD HAS REVIEWED SUGGESTED REPLY FORWARDED SANTO DOMINGO 280. THEY AGREE TO FIRST FOUR SENTENCES OF PARAGRAPH ONE BUT WOULD DELETE REMAINDER AND SUBSTITUTE THEREFOR THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE: WE ARE EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF REDUCING THE MAAG OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS. PROPOSED REDUCTIONS ARE REVIEWED CAREFULLY EACH YEAR IN THE LIGHT OF OUR REQUIREMENTS TO EFFICIENTLY ADMINISTER THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF MAAG STRENGTH FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. UNCERTAINTIES AS TO THE TIME-FRAME AND GRADE-MIX OF POSSIBLE RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUCTIONS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIFIC

## BUDGETARY SAVING IN THIS CONNECTION.

IN ADDITION THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE IAGS OFFICER AND ONE ENLISTED MAN IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEFENSE ATTACHE IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW. UNQUOTE

2. EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY DOD FOR THESE CHANGES ARE: BEGIN QUOTE THE MESSAGE PROPOSED (BY EMBASSY) TO BE SENT TO SENATOR PERCY INCLUDES SEVERAL LINE ITEMS PRESENTED AS "ESTIMATED BUDGETARY SAVINGS". IT IS UNLCEAR HOW THE

EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO ARRIVED AT THESE FIGURES. WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM THEM.

IT IS NOT ALWAYS ACCURATE TO STATE THAT THE REASSIGNMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL YIELDS A SPECIFIC BUDGETARY SAVING. THE REASSIGNMENT DOES DISENCUMBER THE SPECIFIC POSITION FROM EXPENSES ASSOCIATED TO HAVING AN INDIVIDUAL OCCUPYING IT BUT IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REMOVE THE COSTS OF THAT INDIVIDUAL FROM THE OVERALL BUDGETARY SYSTEM AND MAY EVEN INCUR A ONE TIME ADDITIONAL COST IN CONNECTION WITH REASSIGNING HIM. ALL SAVINGS MUST THEREFORE BE CHARACTERIZED AS QTE POTENTIAL UNQTE.

MOREOVER IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CALCULATE BUDGETARY SAVINGS INVOLVED IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES WITHOUT KNOWING THE GRADE AND DEPENDENCY OF THE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS TO BE REASSIGNED. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH INFORMATION THIS FIGURE OUGHT TO BE DELETED. WE HAVE REVISED THE MESSAGE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THESE PROBLEMS. IF THE FIGURES PROPOSED ARE IN FACT FORWARDED TO SENATOR PERCY, THEY OUGHT TO BE IDENTIFIED AS STATE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE DEVELOPED OUGHT TO BE SPECIFIED. ENDQUOTE

3. WE BELIEVE, AND HAVE INFORMED DOD, THAT REPLY RESPONS IVE TO SENATORS QUERY MUST PROVIDE DATA ON ESTIMATED POTENTIAL ANNUAL SAVINGS FOR OPERATION OF US DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO DOMREP. AT SAME TIME, IT SEEMS BOTH UNNECESSARY TO LABEL SAVINGS AS QTE BUDGETARY UNQTE AND FEASIBLE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OTHER POINTS EXPRESSED BY DEFENSE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. EMBASSY MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS IN LIGHT OF DOD REACTION. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR ADDRESSING AGAIN THE PROPOSED TEXT OF A REPLY TO THE SENATOR, COMPUTING FIGURES ON THE BASIS OF STAFFING PROJECTIONS AND FISCAL DATA AVAILABLE AT MISSION, BUT RECOGNIZING DOD RESERVATIONS ABOVE WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THAT APPROACH. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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Subject: CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR DATA

TAGS: OGEN, APER, MILI, DR, MAAG

To: SANTO DOMINGO

Type: TE

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